



City of St. Helens Gazette

Issue 42

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Spring 2018

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Local Partnership Brings Recreation Program to St. Helens

For years, community members and local agencies have wanted to create a centralized program where people can more easily find and plug into the many recreational activities and groups that St. Helens citizens already enjoy.

The City of St. Helens and St. Helens School District are excited to announce their partnership to create a St. Helens Recreation Program that is launching in 2018 just in time for summer activities.

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City of St. Helens

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The Gazette is an informational publication released by the City of St. Helens on a quarterly basis. Copies are available at City Hall or online at the City's website: www.ci-st-helens.or.us.



We welcome your feedback. If you have any ideas, comments or questions, please contact Crystal Farnsworth via phone at 503-366-8215 or email at crystalf@ci-st-helens.or.us.



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<https://twitter.com/sthelens>



Have you signed up for our monthly e-Newsletter yet? Take a peek and sign up on our website at <http://www.ci-st-helens.or.us/community/page/newsletters>.

Arts & Cultural Commission Hosts Three Day Blues and Folk Music Workshop

This summer, the St. Helens Arts & Cultural Commission is excited to offer a three day Blues & Folk Music Workshop led by award-winning musical artists Joe Seamons and Ben Hunter. The classes will be held on June 26, 27, and 28 at the Columbia Center Auditorium, 375 S. 18th Street, St. Helens.

Joe Seamons and Ben Hunter perform acoustic blues and early jazz that delights audiences in concerts and workshops nationwide. For seven years, their tours have extended their work as teachers and community organizers in their home of Seattle, WA. In 2016, Ben and Joe earned first place in the International Blues Challenge Solo/Duo Category out of 94 solo/duo acts representing 16 countries. In 2017, they released a new album with harmonica master Phil Wiggins entitled "Black & Tan Ball."

Participants in the Arts & Cultural Commission's Blues & Folk Music Workshop will attend three 60-minute classes on consecutive days. Three different time slots are being offered each day so that participants can select the time most convenient for them on a first come, first served basis. Time slots will be offered at 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. at the Columbia Center's Auditorium.

The workshop program concludes with a 90-minute concert at Columbia River Reception & Events at Meriwether Place, 1070 Columbia



Courtesy Photo. Musicians Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons.

Blvd., St. Helens, on June 28 at 7 p.m. The concert program will begin with the students' performance of songs that they learned in the workshop and is followed by a performance by Joe Seamons and Ben Hunter. The concert is free for the students' families.

Workshop participants will learn, play, and compose blues and folk songs of the Pacific Northwest and sing, stomp, and drum out rhythm. If they have access to an instrument, attendees should bring a guitar, banjo, or ukulele. If participants do not have an instrument but would like to play one, there are seven ukuleles available to use during the class. A

reservation request should be made when signing up for the class.

This workshop is for people 10 years and older. There is a registration fee of \$30. People can sign up at the St. Helens Public Library or mail a completed registration form and a check payable to City of St. Helens Arts & Cultural Commission to:

St. Helens Public Library
375 S. 18th Street, Suite A
St. Helens, OR 97051

To download a registration form, go to www.ci-st-helens.or.us/bc-acc.

The workshop is sponsored in part by the Columbia County Cultural Coalition. It aims to inspire homemade music-making while sparking curiosity of America's blues and folk music traditions.

St. Helens Spring Burn Dates

The spring burn period for residential open burning in the city limits of St. Helens will begin on the first Saturday in May, running from May 5-20.

Before burning anything in your yard, a burn permit must be obtained through Columbia River Fire & Rescue (CRF&R). Residential burn permits are available through CRF&R's website at www.crf.com/burn-permits.html. If you

apply for a permit online and provide your email address, an automated renewal notice will be sent to you via email when your permit is about to expire. Burn permits can also be obtained at CRF&R's Administrative Office.

Burn bans may still be in effect even if you have obtained a burn permit. Always check the burn line at 503-397-4800 to find out if it is an open burn day.

St. Helens City Utility Bills Converted to Monthly Billing Cycle

The City of St. Helens has converted its utility billing schedule for water, sewer, and storm water services to a monthly billing cycle. This change should make it easier for customers to budget for their St. Helens utility bill and allow for more efficient and rapid water leak detection.

St. Helens utility customers received their last bi-monthly (two month) utility bill at the end of February. The bill included utility usage from December 16, 2017 to February 15, 2018.

The first monthly bill included utility usage from February 16 to March 15. The bill was mailed at the end of March

and was due on April 10, 2018.

The City of St. Helens Utility Billing Division offers an automatic payment option for bills. If you are currently signed up for auto pay and would like to stop this service or if you would like to sign up for auto pay, you should contact the Utility Billing staff. The change can be made in person by visiting the St. Helens Utility Billing office at St. Helens City Hall, 275 Strand Street, St. Helens. You can also call Utility Billing staff at 503-397-6272 for instructions.

With the conversion to a monthly billing cycle, water meters will also be read on a monthly basis.

Columbia Boulevard Sewer Pipe Project

Construction is expected to start in April 2018 on a sewer pipe replacement project on Columbia Boulevard. The South 7th Street and Columbia Boulevard Sewer Replacement Project No. S-658 will replace over 600 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe, replace three sewer manholes, and install one new manhole using traditional open-cut excavation construction methods.

The work will take place on South 7th Street, Columbia Boulevard, and North 6th Street. A four inch waterline will also be replaced on North 6th Street.

This work is being done because the 10 inch sewer line on Columbia

Boulevard in front of the Columbia Funeral Home is out of grade. This means that instead of the sewer properly flowing into the next pipe, the sewer is holding water and debris. This creates a very high potential for sewer backups for residents connected to the sewer line. Because the sewer line on Columbia Boulevard will have to be lowered to meet current grade standards, portions of the connecting sewer lines on South 7th Street and North 6th Street will also have to be replaced.

The project is estimated to cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Turney Excavating Inc. out of Keizer, Oregon will be completing the work.



From the Desk of Mayor Rick Scholl



Spring is my favorite time of year. April showers bring May flowers, which also means Spring Chinook season.

First and foremost, the waterfront is still moving forward. We're working on the Riverfront Connector Plan right now so that our roads and transportation infrastructure is prepared for riverfront development to start. This means making sure that the City plans for better roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and anything else that we will need as more businesses and people start coming to St. Helens. You can read more about the Riverfront Connector Plan in this issue of the Gazette. Be sure to take the survey mentioned in the article to let us know what transportation features are most important to you and where you would like to see improvements happen.

I'm also excited about the City working with a developer that has submitted a proposal to develop a section of the Veneer site. This is on a part of the riverfront property where the gravel walking path loop is currently located. The proposal includes a 75-100 unit boutique hotel and a mix of residential and business use. From the beginning design concepts for the waterfront, the City has always included plans for public access to the riverfront. This public access is included in the proposed development.

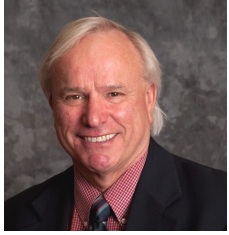
Recently, the City has also started to work on the St. Helens Industrial Park, which is on the former Boise White Paper property site. We hope to attract new industrial businesses to our city by being able to offer an inviting industrial business park to potential investors.

I'm looking forward to longer days as it awakens our riverfront area and means the return of special events to St. Helens. I hope to see you out in the community enjoying all the great activities that spring and summer bring.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rick Scholl

From the Desk of the City Council



Doug Morten

The City Budget Committee, made up of the City Council and five volunteer citizens, is currently

sifting through monetary figures and department proposals for next fiscal year 2018-19. If you have never attended a City budget meeting, you might find it interesting to better understand how fees and tax dollars are utilized. It is an open process with the opportunity for visitor comments at each session. I encourage you to attend and meet our treasured (bad pun intended) City Finance Director Matt Brown.

Many City departments have not recovered from the departure of industries during the Great Recession. With that, the City lost an enormous tax base. Now with the departure of Armstrong, we simply are required to do more with less financial income. However, as citizens, we all appreciate the fact that we have one of the lowest property tax rates in the state. This fact also complicates our City budget process even more.

The Council continually asks our City staff and crews to perform beyond expectations. They aggressively pursue training, planning, and grants like no other municipality. They are continually recognized by the League of Oregon Cities for community outreach efforts and innovative cost-saving initiatives. They wisely utilize tourism dollars to fund community events.

At financially challenging times like we are experiencing, collaboration with our many community service organizations, City committees, and the many volunteers who take pride in our community is what holds our city together. Our volunteers cannot be thanked enough!

Visit the City's website and don't be shy about attending one of the many City meetings. We want to get to know you and hear your concerns and comments.

Respectfully,
Doug Morten
Council President
Parks & Public Works



Keith Locke

Let's talk about our property taxes.

So how many people have stopped reading this already?

We all complain that our taxes are too high. Let's examine the property tax statement for St. Helens residents. If you have a copy of yours, I encourage you to look at it. If you count them up, you will notice that there are 13 different tax districts listed on your property tax statement. Yes, you read that right. Thirteen taxing districts is a lot. I agree. And all of the districts are independent of each other.

I want to focus on the City. Just for clarification, the Greater Saint Helens Park and Recreation District listed on your tax statement deals with just issues for the Eisenschmidt Pool. It has NOTHING to do with the City parks. Shocking, right?

If you look at the City of St. Helens tax line, the City receives only about one-eighth of the total property taxes that you pay.

Did you know that it cost more money for the services the City provides for your household than the money that the City receives from those taxes?

What is supposed to happen is that the larger businesses and industry in the City help make up for the household cost. This works until the large businesses and industries shut down. That is why we have lost 15 percent of our City staff (mostly in the Police and Parks Departments) while our town has doubled in size. And because we had so many large industries in the past, our City tax rate was locked in at a low rate and remains one of the lowest in the state.

I hope that this information has been helpful in explaining a bit about the taxes that we all pay. I will talk more about this subject in the next Gazette.

Thanks,
Keith Locke
Police Commissioner



Ginny Carlson

Spring is a time for hope and renewal. It has been a year since a cancer diagnosis changed my life

forever. I was diagnosed with Stage III Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. But today, I am six-months cancer free! I celebrate with all who have beaten cancer and mourn those we have lost. This past year, I said goodbye to my mother and my best friend, but now is the time to look ahead, focus on the positive, and concentrate on the potential in our community and in each of us.

Socrates said it best, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, NOT on fighting the OLD but on building the NEW."

I hope many citizens will find a way to celebrate with me a new life and a better future for our community. I am continuing my tradition of supporting NAMI walks this year. The walk helps raise money for those affected by mental health issues. The advocacy group works to end the stigma of mental illness and allow people to get the help and support they need to be productive citizens.

I am also starting a new role as a volunteer for Public Health, leading walking groups at the waterfront and at McCormick park each weekend. Walking is one of the easiest ways to rebuild yourself after any traumatic experience. It builds physical, emotional, and mental wellness. I hope some of you will join me so we can support each other and grow stronger.

This year looks to be an active one for our waterfront with a new event Festival of the Fairies. I can't wait to see what all the excitement is about and hope loads of families will choose to check it out.

13 Nights on the River is back to its weekly format with an infusion of new talent. As always, they are looking for volunteers.

Happy spring, happy gardening, and remember, hospitality begins in the heart.

Ginny Carlson



Susan Conn

In a world increasingly concerned about fake news, it's important for people to know where they can go to get correct and factual

information.

More than anything else, a city councilor's job is advocating for the City and the community we represent, which sometimes means putting out fires. There have been lots of fires this month and many of them are due to nothing more than communication issues. Or, should I say, miscommunication?

A councilor's job from day to day consists of conducting City business, setting policy, working with our appointed committees, supervising and assisting the departments for which we are responsible, and attending relevant meetings - whether in the city, the community, the region, or the state.

We strive to be accessible and transparent, doing our best to keep the public informed. We receive phone calls and emails about current concerns and issues, or read about them on Facebook. Sometimes information is accurate, questions relevant, opinions researched. Sometimes I feel like we live in an alternate reality, one where we are perceived to be villains, bent on destroying our fair city.

I've written before about the need for clear and direct communication. We are a board which manages, but specific duties are delegated to different departments. We Councilors have an overview, but for specifics we rely on staff. If you have a question concerning any department, please direct that question to City staff, who will help you find the correct answer.

Our City website is a wealth of information, a way to research past meetings and issues, current projects, and find many of the answers to your questions. It is one of the tools we use for communication, together with this quarterly Gazette, a monthly newsletter, a monthly radio show on KOHI called City Talk, our streamed meetings, and various social media pages.

These tools are designed to keep you informed, and I hope they meet your informational needs. If you haven't already, please explore and enjoy them.

Susan Conn

St. Helens Police Department Welcomes New Officer



Officer Bryan Cutright Jr. (right) with Judge Cindy Phillips after taking his oath of office.

Officer Bryan Cutright Jr. was sworn in as the St. Helens Police Department's newest officer at the City Council's work session meeting on February 7.

Cutright is a St. Helens local who graduated from St. Helens High School in 2004. He obtained his associate's degree from Lower

Columbia Community College before serving as a military police officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2009-2012.

He previously served with the St. Helens Police Department in 2016 before working as a dispatcher at the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District.

City Council Contacts and Assignments

Rick Scholl, Mayor ricks@ci.st-helens.or.us
Administration Department, Communications

Doug Morten, Council President dougmn@ci.st-helens.or.us
Public Works Department, Parks Commission, Columbia County Economic Team, St. Helens Economic Development Corp. (Alternate)

Keith Locke, Councilor keithl@ci.st-helens.or.us
Police Department, Community Development Department, Builders Review Board, Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (Alternate), St. Helens Youth Council

Susan Conn, Councilor susanc@ci.st-helens.or.us
Library Department, Arts & Cultural Commission, Library Board, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District, St. Helens Economic Development Corp.

Ginny Carlson, Councilor ginnync@ci.st-helens.or.us
Planning Commission, St. Helens Youth Council

Online Survey for St. Helens Riverfront Connector Plan

In January 2018, the City kicked off a grant-funded transportation study called the “Riverfront Connector Plan.” This plan will set the framework for a cohesive, multi-modal, inviting transportation loop from Highway 30 to the Riverfront District and along the waterfront. The public is invited to provide feedback about the Riverfront Connector Plan through an online open house and survey which will be available through Friday, April 27. The open house and survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/riverfrontconnector>.

The survey is intended to introduce the project through a series of questions and gather input about preferences for design amenities along the transportation corridor.

A Planning Commission Work Session was held on April 10, 2018, to view a presentation about the project. The Work Session was intended to gather feedback from the Planning Commission and served as an introduction to the project. You can watch a video of the meeting and see the packet on the City’s website: <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/bc/page/agendas-minutes-videos>.

The Riverfront Connector Plan project website (<http://www.riverfrontconnectorplan.com/>) contains documents to learn more about the project, as well as an interactive map where the public can comment on specific areas of concern along the corridor. The plan is anticipated to be adopted by Spring 2019, and there will be multiple opportunities to offer input before final adoption.

Anyone interested in attending future meetings can follow the City’s Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens/>) and subscribe to the City’s e-Newsletter (<https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/community/page/newsletters>) where specific meeting details will be provided.

About the Riverfront Connector Plan

In 2015, the City of St. Helens purchased the former Boise Veneer Mill and White Paper sites and launched the Waterfront Redevelopment Project. In order to help with the costs of redevelopment, the City has applied for and received several state and federal grants. These grants have allowed the City to conduct site assessments, hold meetings to gather community feedback, and create a framework plan for development.

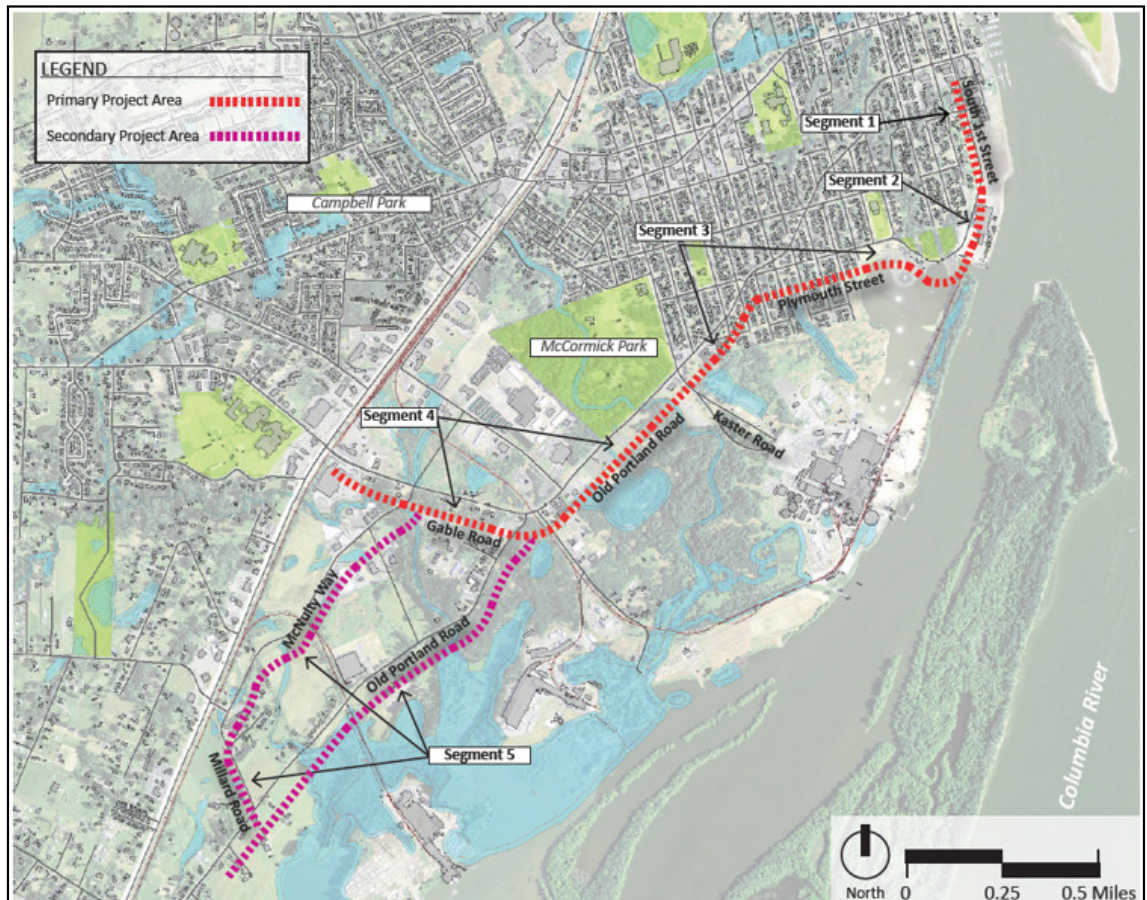
One important piece to the successful redevelopment of the St. Helens waterfront will be transportation improvements from Highway 30 to the Columbia River. In particular, key intersections have been identified as deficient along the main route from Highway 30 to the waterfront.

Overall project goals for the Riverfront Connector Plan include:

1. Creating “streetscape” plans for the study area to help provide the foundation for orderly redevelopment that connects the various St. Helens neighborhoods together, brings people back to the Riverfront District, and creates a connection to the greater local region.
2. Improving the aesthetics and function of the corridors to attract business and investment, provide better access, provide direction and signage to the Riverfront District, ensure multi-modal access, and improve desirability of the study area.

Please view the Riverfront Connector Plan Project Website for additional project goals and guiding principles for the planning process (<http://www.riverfrontconnectorplan.com/>).

This planning project is funded with a \$208,550 grant from the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program, which is a joint program of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). This TGM grant is financed, in part, by the federal Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (“FAST Act”), local government, and State of Oregon funds.



St. Helens Recreation Program

The City of St. Helens and St. Helens School District have partnered to bring a Recreation Program to St. Helens. The program, which launches at the end of April with the publication of a summer recreation calendar, will provide a central location where community members can find a wide range of recreational activities that are available in St. Helens. The initial calendar will include activities that begin on June 1, 2018 or later and are free or low cost for citizens to enjoy.

For years, community members and local agencies have wanted to create a centralized program where people can more easily find and plug into the many recreational activities and groups that St. Helens citizens already enjoy. Both the City of St. Helens and St. Helens School District identify building a better community as one of their main agency goals and believe that a recreation program is one way to help support that goal.

In December 2017, staff from the City and School District began meeting to discuss what a St. Helens Recreation Program would look like. The School District has sports facilities, fields, classrooms, and other spaces that are not fully utilized after hours and both agencies felt that a partnership would help bring a much-needed, streamlined recreation program to the community. Serving the same families, the partnership will allow an expansion of recreational opportunities without requiring either organization to build extra facilities of its own to meet public demand. This will also help save taxpayer money.

The two agencies started to inventory what recreation activities already existed in St. Helens, discussed how a centralized recreation program could help community members connect with existing activities, and brainstormed a few new programs to add to the list, including drop-in sports, arts and craft meet ups, and do-it-yourself classes.

In preparation for the publication of the first Recreation Program calendar, the City

and School District have created a short online survey where people can provide feedback about the types of recreation activities that they already participate in and the programs that are most important to their household. The survey will remain open through Friday, May 4, and can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sthelensrecsurvey>. It takes approximately three to five minutes to complete the survey.

The City and School District plan to publish a quarterly or seasonal Recreation Program calendar, with the first calendar scheduled for publication at the end of April. The calendar will provide a list of summer activities that start June 1, 2018 and later. The City will add a Recreation Program page to its website (www.ci.st-helens.or.us) by the end of April where

community members can access an online version of the calendar and find out general information about the Recreation Program.

To help facilitate the program, the City is currently exploring options to hire a recreation coordinator who would work with

local groups and the School District to manage event information and publish the Recreation Program calendar.

Applications will be included in the Recreation Program calendar for any community member, business, or group that would like to list a recreational activity in the calendar.

The City and School District hope to include a wide range of activities in the calendar. Remember that recreation is more than just sports activities for St. Helens youth. The St. Helens Recreation Program will strive to include diverse recreational options, including activities such as theater, music, art and cooking classes, board game meet ups, how-to classes, low-impact adult activities such as walking groups or yoga, bird watching, educational lectures, movie nights, photography, or foreign language classes.

Take the Recreation Program Survey!

All you need is online access and five minutes of time:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sthelensrecsurvey>



St. Helens Public Library

375 S. 18th Street
St. Helens, OR 97051
503-397-4544

HOURS

Mon. through Thurs.: 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Sunday: Closed



Columbia County Reads 2018 Features the Books of Scappoose Author Willy Vlautin

Columbia County libraries have selected the books of award-winning Scappoose author Willy Vlautin as the focus of Columbia County Reads 2018.

Columbia County Reads is a yearly collaboration between Columbia County libraries to bring reading to the forefront of public discourse. If everyone reads the same book or author at the same time, it is hoped that it will inspire discussions, connections, and a shared perspective among Columbia County residents.

Participating libraries include Clatskanie Library District, Columbia City Community Library, Rainier City Library, Scappoose Public Library, St. Helens Public Library, and Vernonia Public Library. Each library has a selection of Vlautin's books available for check out.

Vlautin will make author appearances at four Columbia County libraries in April:

- Scappoose Public Library, Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m.
- St. Helens Public Library, Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m.
- Vernonia Public Library, Friday, April 27, 7 p.m.
- Clatskanie Library District, Saturday, April 28, 7 p.m., at the Clatskanie Cultural Center, 75 S. Nehalem Street, Clatskanie

Columbia County Reads participants are encouraged to attend a neighboring library's author event if their local library is not a host library. The St. Helens Public Library Book Club

is partnering with Columbia County Reads for their April book theme. Book Club members should read any of Vlautin's books and attend the Thursday, April 26 author appearance in lieu of the regular Book Club meeting.

Vlautin was born and raised in Reno, Nevada before he eventually moved to Oregon. As a teenager, he started playing guitar and writing songs. A Paul Kelly song, based on Raymond Carver's short story "So Much Water So Close to

Home," inspired Vlautin to start writing stories.

Vlautin has published five novels. His first book, "The Motel Life," was a New York Times Editor's choice and notable book. It was also made into a major motion picture starring Dakota Fanning. "Lean on Pete" was published in 2010 and the winner of the Ken Kesey Award for Fiction, short-listed for the IMPAC award, and was recently made into a major motion picture starring Steve

Buscemi and Chloe Sevigny. The film was screened at the 2018 Portland International Film Festival. "The Free" is Vlautin's fourth novel and winner of the Oregon People's Choice Award.

Vlautin also founded the band Richmond Fontaine in 1994, which achieved critical acclaim in the United States and across Europe. Vlautin's new band, The Delines, debuted in 2014 and sold out venues on their first UK and Irish tour.



Scappoose author Willy Vlautin, the featured author for Columbia County Reads 2018. Photo Courtesy of Dan Eccles.

Adult Civics Program: The Influence of the Constitution on Political Conversation



from fiction and using critical thinking skills to interpret messages from politicians, news sources and other media. The workshop used real-world examples of political ads, news headlines, logical fallacies, graphs and charts, and focused on finding accurate information and helping people become their own fact checkers. The second workshop provided resources for participants who were wanting to improve life for themselves and their neighbors through legislative changes. Topics covered included examples of successful advocacy, a brief history of perspective, choosing your battles, what matters to you, who makes the rules, tools for change, and tracking civic and political issues.

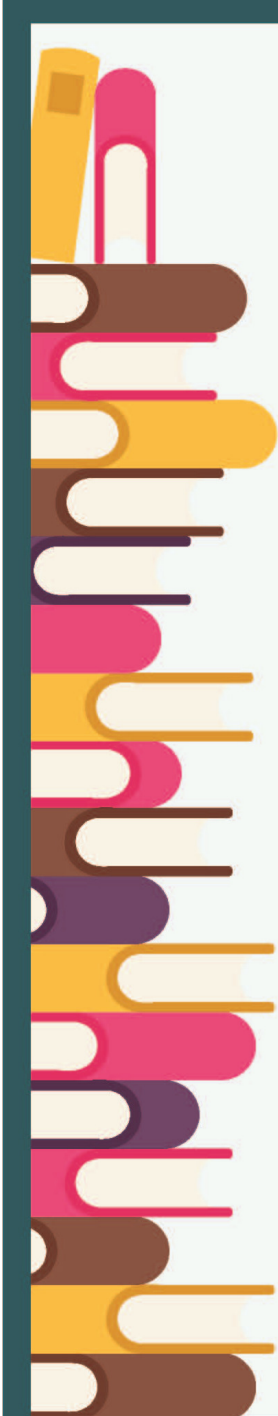
With the first program held in September 2017, the St. Helens Public Library is currently in the middle of a four-part lecture series called Civics for Adults. These community workshops are led by Donna L. Cohen, a teacher and librarian, and are designed to enhance civic knowledge and inspire political engagement. This program is non-partisan, free to the public, and no pre-registration is required.

The next program (part three of the series) is called "The Influence of the Constitution on Political Conversation." The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. Cohen will talk about the creation of the Constitution, examine myths about the Constitution, and guide attendees in developing a broader perspective of its significance which will help people evaluate current political events more thoughtfully.

The final workshop, "Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing," is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7 p.m. This unique workshop will cover 20 topics related to the United States electoral systems and present specific ideas for bi-partisan civic and political engagement. Some of the topics that will be covered include voting as a Constitutional right, voter rights, voter fraud, instant runoff elections, redistricting, superdelegates, Electoral College, campaign financing, contribution limits, dark money, and public attitudes about money in politics.

Donna L. Cohen worked in New England social service agencies in the 1970s. From New England, she came to Oregon, received her Master of Education, and taught Industrial Arts for the next 12 years. After returning from the Peace Corps in 1994, where she taught at a college of education in Botswana, she went to library school at the University of British Columbia. In 1996, she returned to Oregon and started a career as an information professional. She continues to perform occasional on-call reference services for Beaverton City Library.

Past programs in the series included "Misinformation, Fake News, and Political Propaganda" and "Citizen Activism 101: Making Change Happen." The first talk covered information about learning to distinguish truth



**COLUMBIA
County
READS
2018**

**The
Books of
Willy Vlautin**

Meet the Author

Wed. April 25, 7 pm Scappoose Public Library
Thurs. April 26, 7 pm St. Helens Public Library
Fri. April 27, 7 pm Vernonia Public Library
Sat. April 28, 7 pm Clatskanie Library District

Contact Libraries for local event information and availability of Willy Vlautin book titles.

Scappoose Public Library 503-543-7123
St. Helens Public Library 503-397-4544
Vernonia Public Library 503-429-1818
Clatskanie Library District 503-728-3732
Columbia City Community Library 503-366-8020

Library Welcomes New Employee



The City of St. Helens is pleased to welcome Cameron Burkart as St. Helens Public Library's new part-time Library Assistant.

Cameron moved to Clatskanie in August 2017 when his partner was hired in Rainier as a music teacher at the elementary school. Before moving to Oregon, Cameron graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz with a B.A. in Creative Writing/English. He volunteered at the Elting Memorial Library in New York and Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts doing shelving, helping with Friends of the Library book sales, and some circulation desk duties. He also has experience in bookbinding and

paper conservation through NYC Center for Book Arts and North Bennet Street School in Boston, Massachusetts.

Cameron has lots of customer service experience having worked multiple jobs in the food industry. He currently does freelance writing, including copywriting, editing and content creation, geared toward business website content.

"Even in middle and high school, libraries felt important to me, and I took advantage of the resources in the Library," says Cameron. "I gained a lot from those resources, and I have always wanted a way to help others gain access to the resources that libraries offer."

Library Bids Farewell to Long-Time Volunteer



The St. Helens Public Library wishes long-time volunteer Dorothy Watkins well as she "retires" from over a decade of volunteer service with the Library.

Dorothy started volunteering for the Library in March 2006. Recently, she spends most of her volunteer hours working on book repair and mending and disc repair and polishing. She also prepares new books to go out on the shelves by wrapping them, adding corner protectors, etc.

Dorothy has volunteered over 2,500 hours with the Library, averaging almost 200 hours a year. Her volunteer hours are the equivalent of making a monetary donation each year of nearly \$5,000 to the Library (according to the estimated value of volunteer time for 2016 by the Independent Sector).

Her volunteer hours qualified her for the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award every year that she volunteered.

Thank you for your service, Dorothy! You will be greatly missed.

Annual Spring Garden & Plant Sale and Friends of the Library Book Sale



Mark your calendars for the annual spring Garden and Plant Sale and Friends of the Library Book Sale!

The St. Helens Garden Club will be on the Columbia Center's porch with a selection of mostly ornamental spring plantings. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21.

Twice a year, the Friends of the St. Helens Public Library hold their giant book sale which benefits the

Library. They have thousands of books available for your reading (and buying) pleasure! The sale will be in the lobby outside the Library on Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Audio books and DVDs will also be on sale.

Adult hardback books are \$1 each and paperbacks are \$0.50. Children's books are \$0.50 and \$0.25.

Youth and Teen Events at the Library

Baby Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m., April 3 through June 5

Caregivers with children ages six months to two years are invited to join us for stories, fingerplays, songs, bounces, tickles, and other activities that support early brain development, language acquisition, and motor skill growth! Stay afterward for free play and socializing.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m., April 4 through June 6

Songs, stories, dances, wiggles, and more for two- and three-year-olds and their caregivers! Storytime is designed to support early brain development, language acquisition, and motor skill growth. Stay afterward for free play and socializing.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays at 11:15 a.m., April 5 through June 7

In this program for three- to five-year-olds and their caregivers, we pair stories, songs, and dances with scientific inquiry and artistic expression in order to support children's development and growth -- and have fun together!

Make It! LEGO

Wednesday, May 2, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Library for unstructured, drop-in LEGO play time with our growing collection of donated LEGO sets. Duplo sets are available for younger children. Come create with us! All ages.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In celebration of Free Comic Book Day, the St. Helens Public Library will be giving away a limited number of comic books for free. Stop by the Library to pick your copy up. First come, first served.

Teen Babysitting Training

Thursday, May 31, 4 - 6:30 p.m.

Once you've finished the computerized BLAST training on a library computer, you'll get training and certification in CPR and a crash course in the early literacy ideas you'll need to best care for children. Ages 12-18. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call the Library at 503-397-4544 to sign up for one of the 16 available spots.

Make It! LEGO

Wednesday, June 6th, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Library for unstructured, drop-in LEGO play time with our growing collection of donated LEGO sets. Duplo sets are available for younger children. Come create with us! All ages.

Summer Library Challenge

June 18 through August 11

Keep track of the time you spend reading, exploring, creating, and helping this summer -- and earn prizes along the way! You'll get a free book when you sign up and can earn weekly prizes donated by local businesses each week. If you complete the challenge, you'll get a bag and tickets to the State Fair. We'll also have weekly raffles for participants who go above and beyond! The Summer Library Challenge is aimed at kids ages 6 and up; caregivers of children who are not yet reading can sign up for their own version of the challenge and earn prizes for reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with their children. Stop by the library starting June 19 to register, and check the library's events calendar now for all the great programs we'll be offering this summer.

Make It! LEGO

Wednesday, June 20, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Visit the Library for unstructured, drop-in LEGO play time with our growing collection of donated LEGO sets. Duplo sets are available for younger children. Come create with us! All ages.

Family Storytime

Thursdays at 11:15 a.m., June 21 through August 16 (except July 19)

Join other families for stories, songs, movement, fingerplays, puppets, and more. This is geared toward children ages 0-6, but children of all ages are welcome with a parent or caregiver.

Summer Library Challenge Kick-Off Party Featuring Red Yarn

Saturday, June 23, 12 p.m.

Sign up for our Summer Library Challenge if you haven't already and enjoy a performance by Red Yarn that weaves together folksongs, puppetry, and storytelling. Expect audience participation, movement, and lots of energy! All ages; especially fun for children ages 2-9 and their caregivers.

Make It! Bookmarks

Wednesday, June 27, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Step up your bookmark game! Move beyond scraps of paper or (heaven forbid!) dog-eared pages to clever, creative bookmarks. We'll have materials and instructions for several different types -- stop by to get equipped for all of your summer reading! Ages 4+ (solid scissor skills recommended).

Super Hero Training

Friday, June 29, 3 - 4 p.m.

It takes more than a cape to be a super hero! Enroll in our Super Hero Training to develop your secret identity, identify your super powers, and take down supervillains! Ages 5-14.

Friends of the St. Helens Public Library Quarterly Art Show



The Friends of the St. Helens Public Library are hosting their quarterly art show in May at the Library.

Visit the Library throughout the month to see the show “This Place Matters.” The group show will feature a collection of artists that have depicted St. Helens city scenes through the medium of urban sketching and plein air.

The artists will give an Artists Talk at the Library on Thursday, May 31 at 7 p.m.

In 2015, the Friends of the St. Helens Public Library started hosting quarterly art shows at the Library to showcase Columbia County’s creative community and bring creative people together to work as a group.



Monthly & Weekly Group Meetings at the Library



Genial Genealogists
First Monday of each month
6:30—7:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Wondering where to start on your family history? Overwhelmed by inherited memorabilia? Have you inherited some family tree information but need to know where to find “the harder stuff?” These sessions will cover some of the things you need to know to get your genealogy started or to get it moving again. Questions welcome!



Fiber Fanatics
Every Thursday
10 a.m.—Noon
Armstrong Room

Are you a knitter, crocheter, spinner, weaver, needle pointer, cross-stitcher, rug-hooker, and/or embroiderer? Join other like-minded lovers of fiber art and enjoy conversation while you work on your projects in a relaxed setting. Feel free to bring a snack.



Ukulele Group
Every Saturday
10:30 a.m.—Noon
Auditorium

Have you ever wanted to learn to play the ukulele? Members of the St. Helens Public Library Ukulele Orchestra will be on hand to provide instruction and answer questions. A limited number of ukuleles will be available so please bring your own if you have one. Hang out with us and learn to play at your own pace! Please call the St. Helens Public Library at 503-397-4544 to register.



St. Helens Writer’s Guild
Second Saturday of each month
Noon—2 p.m.
Auditorium

The St. Helens Public Library hosts the St. Helens Writers' Guild meeting each month. Open to all writers.

St. Helens Police Chief Receives State Award for Youth Engagement

St. Helens Police Chief Terry Moss has received the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Max Patterson Award for his youth engagement efforts in St. Helens. Chief Moss was presented the award at the annual conference of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) in Bend, Oregon on April 12.

The Max Patterson Award is bestowed on an Oregon police chief for his or her contributions to OACP or the community in presenting programs of outstanding benefit to young people of all ages in the local community.

Chief Moss was nominated by police and City staff for his years of involvement in St. Helens police activities for youth. As a patrol officer hired with the St. Helens Police Department in 1991, he was the School District's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer. Since being promoted to police



chief in April 2013, Chief Moss has frequently attended Head Start classes. He often presents curriculum in street law classes held at St. Helens High School.

He personally schedules and attends the Police Department's recent community engagement events, including Coffee with a Cop, Cocoa with a Cop, and Lemonade with the Law. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to these events to meet officers in a relaxed setting where Chief Moss and the other officers hand out trading cards, stickers, bracelets, and pose for photos at local

businesses.

Chief Moss also supported his Department's 2016 good behavior youth "citation" program, the 2017 Trunk-or-Treat event, and the annual Donut Day fundraiser benefiting the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

St. Helens Community Emergency Response Team Begins Annual Training



Since 2005, the St. Helens Police Department and Columbia River Fire & Rescue have worked together to hold annual Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) trainings for community members interested in learning important disaster response skills.

The St. Helens C.E.R.T. class of 2018 met for the first time on April 5 to begin their six weeks of disaster training.

In the classes, participants learn about disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue operations, and disaster psychology and team organization.

In the event of a disaster, C.E.R.T. graduates who voluntarily agree to be called upon can be used to help assist

the St. Helens Police Department and Columbia River Fire & Rescue in response efforts. C.E.R.T. volunteers also assist the Police Department each year with traffic control for events such as 4th of July and Hood to Coast, help with first aid at the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, and continue to participate in emergency response classes and training at different locations around the region.

The St. Helens C.E.R.T. program is offered each year in the spring. The program is free and open to all citizens. A handful of high school students usually participate in the program along with adults. You can apply to the program at <http://columbiacountycitizencorps.org/site/category/forms/>.

2018 Police Reserve Academy Underway



Hopeful police reserve candidates for the St. Helens and Scappoose police departments began six months of reserve academy training facilitated by the St. Helens Police Department in January 2018.

Academy participants complete a rigorous training that involves six months of classes held two to three times a week. They are trained in patrol techniques, first aid, report writing, defensive tactics, firearms, criminal and case law, and many other topics that are necessary for their duties as reserve officers. The St. Helens Police Department is assisted in hosting the course by numerous other Columbia County, and sometimes regional, law enforcement and support agencies.

Those candidates who pass the academy will graduate in June 2018 and qualify for the position of reserve officer with their respective law enforcement agency.

13 NIGHTS ON THE RIVER

Suggested Donation \$2
6:30 P.M. Downbeat

2018

June 7 - Hit Machine

June 14 - Rebecca Kilgore
& The Cowgirls

June 21 - Dominic Castillo

June 28 - Idle Poets

July 4 - Hit Machine

July 12 - Miss Augie &
The Doggie Daddy's

July 19 - Hill Stomp

July 26 - the Horn Dawgs

New -
Happy Hour
4 - 6:15 with
Matt Brown

August 2 - Funktown PDX

August 9 - Gary Bennett Band

August 16 - Chris Baum Band/
Steely Dan Collection
& Earth, Wind & Fire

August 23 - Kate & The Crocodiles

August 30 - Curtis Salgado
& Alan Hager

NO HEADPHONES REQUIRED

www.discovercolumbiacounty.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

8:00 AM - NOON

Acceptable Hazardous Waste Materials:

- Thinners and solvents, paint spray cans, auto & marine paint
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons
- Household cleaners, disinfectants and detergents
- Light ballasts-*remove from light fixture*
- Fluorescent tubes
- Ammunition
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Art and hobby chemicals
- PCB's
- Gasoline/diesel/fuels
- Batteries (*only car, rechargeable, button*)
 -no alkaline batteries
- Fireworks / flares
- Items containing mercury



Businesses with (SQG) hazardous waste
- contact Michael Mason at 971-401-0367
at least 2 weeks prior to event for appt.

HAZARDOUS DISPOSAL IS FREE OF CHARGE

Items NOT accepted:

- ⊘ Radioactive materials
- ⊘ Household trash / empty containers
- ⊘ Explosives
- ⊘ Bio medical waste
- ⊘ Asbestos
- ⊘ Prescriptions/over the counter medications
- ⊘ Business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large quantity (LQG) generators

Items accepted for free during regular business hour at the Transfer Station:

Accepted Products (maximum container size is 5 gallons, original can & label):

- ✓ Stains and shellacs
- ✓ Wood coatings (containing no pesticides)
- ✓ Deck coatings and floor paints (including elastomeric)
- ✓ Lacquers, lacquer sanding sealers and lacquer stains
- ✓ Melamine, metal and rust preventatives
- ✓ Used motor oil and antifreeze
- ✓ Swimming pool paints (single component)
- ✓ Medical sharps (in a sealed, puncture-proof container)
- ✓ Varnishes and Urethanes (single component)
- ✓ Waterproofing, sealers and repellents: concrete masonry and wood (no tar or bitumen-based)
- ✓ Exterior and Interior Paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, lacquers, oil-based and enamel (all types of finishes and sheens, including textured coatings) – **NO SPRAY CANS, NO LEAKING CANS**
- ✓ Electronics-TV's, computers, monitors

Toxic.Free.Home.



Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

1601 RAILROAD AVENUE
ST. HELENS OR 97051

Regular Business Hours:
Monday – Saturday / 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

*If you have any questions about hazardous items collected
call Kathy 503-397-7259.*

If I Were Mayor Student Contest



The St. Helens City Council invites local students to share their creative ideas about what they would do if they were mayor of St. Helens. Three local winners will receive \$100 each in cash and lunch with Mayor Rick Scholl.

The “If I Were Mayor, I Would...” Student Contest is a partnership with the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) and is open to local students enrolled in school or being home-schooled for the 2017-2018 school year. This is the seventh year that St. Helens has participated in the statewide contest.

Students can submit entries to City Hall in one of three categories: a poster competition for grades 4-5, an essay competition for grades 6-8, and a digital media presentation for high school students. Completed submissions must be received at City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24. A complete contest packet and entry form are available to download on the City’s website at <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/news> under the February 16 press release link. Hardcopy versions of the application packet are also available at City Hall.

A winner from each category will receive \$100 cash and lunch with Mayor Rick Scholl. Winning entries will be sent to the state competition for a chance to win an Apple iPad Air 2.

All completed submissions will be reviewed at the May 2 City Council Work Session. The Council will evaluate the entries based on creativity, clarity/sincerity of thought, proper use of grammar, and subject relevancy.

Street Crack Sealing Project

The City of St. Helens hired CR Contractors LLC to perform approximately 110,000 linear feet of crack sealing on eight city streets this summer. Crack sealing is a preventive treatment for paved streets that are experiencing a moderate amount of linear cracking. Crack sealing can extend the life of the existing pavement at a relatively low cost if applied before the surface wear and cracking become too extensive.

Eight streets were selected for the project. The contractor will perform work on portions of the following roads: Columbia Boulevard, Deer Island Road, West Street, Oregon Street, North 11th & 12th Streets, Cowlitz Street, and Barr Avenue.

The estimated cost for the project is \$75,000. The funding source is from the State Surface Transportation Program.

Public Meetings Calendar

May

5/2	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
5/3	Budget Committee Meeting	6 pm
5/8	Planning Commission	7 pm
5/15	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
5/16	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Public Hearing	6 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
5/22	Arts & Cultural Commission	6 pm
5/28	Memorial Day—City Offices Closed	

June

6/6	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Public Hearing	6:30 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
6/11	Parks Commission	4 pm
6/12	Planning Commission	7 pm
6/18	Arts & Cultural Commission	6 pm
6/19	Library Board	7:15 pm
6/20	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Public Hearing	6 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
6/28	Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission	6:30 pm

July

7/4	Independence Day—City Offices Closed	
7/4	City Council Work Session	CANCELLED
	City Council Regular Session	CANCLD
7/10	Planning Commission	7 pm
7/17	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
7/18	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Public Hearing	6 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
7/24	Arts & Cultural Commission	6 pm

Meeting agendas, packets and minutes, along with any changes, are available to view on the City’s website at www.ci.st-helens.or.us. Public Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 29.